

*When you read any of my works, you will need to have read *The Dictator's Handbook* by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith to understand the messages that follow. Also, a reminder that the definition of youth used here is people under the age of majority. In the US, that's people ages 0-17.

*The word parent-slaver means "parent who legally owns their kid as property." This means that all parents who have kids under the age of majority are parent-slavers.

*You might also want to read *The 48 Laws of Power*, by Robert Greene; *Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion*, by Robert Cialdini; *Our Masters' Voices: The Language and Body-language of Politics*, by Max Atkinson; and *Power: Why Some People Have It and Others Don't*, by Jeffrey Pfeffer. These books will help you gain a deeper understanding of youth liberation and how parents oppress their kids. These books will also be instrumental in helping you come up with strategies to avoid getting hurt by your parents, band together against the school system, and organize and protest safely and effectively.

Torture Roulette: Why Some Kids Are More Obedient Than Others

Youth should be aware of the techniques used by their parent-slavers to coerce them into obeying. Parent-slavers use a particularly brutal technique called "torture roulette" to instill obedience in youth by exploiting their fear of unpredictability. Because torture roulette is a psychological torture technique that works well at regulating kids' conduct, most of today's parents utilize it with their kids. "Varying the type, frequency, severity, and time of punishment without warning the kid beforehand" is the definition of torture roulette. Torture roulette gives the impression that punishments are random, which makes youth afraid and uncertain. This fear and uncertainty make them cling desperately to obedience in order to avoid being abused. In this section, we use the term "randomized" as a shortcut for the full definition of torture roulette, knowing that we really mean the full definition.

Parent-slavers use torture roulette to control their kids' behavior by robbing them of knowledge about the consequences of disobedience. The parent-slaver creates an environment where the kid is continuously scared of what the parent might do in reaction to disobedience by randomly changing the type of punishment, frequency of punishment, severity of punishment, and time at which the punishment is inflicted. This environment really hurts a youth's ability to fight their own enslavement.

Without the ability to judge for themselves how their parents will react to their disobedience, kids are left with the terrifying choice to either obey or face

unexpected, unexplained, catastrophic harm. Torture roulette is so effective that today there are very many hyper-obedient youth who bend over backwards to please their parents. There are very few youth today that are rebellious to the degree that youth were fifty, seventy, and ninety years ago, and that is partly because of torture roulette.

Youth can beat torture roulette because it's just a more vicious type of obedience training. The tactics against obedience training outlined in *DWYW Issue 8* can be used to completely defeat torture roulette. Kids who are faced with torture roulette might find it helpful to read *The Dictator's Handbook* by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith and *The 48 Laws of Power* by Robert Greene. Kids can also practice deliberate disobedience, which works well against the demotivating effects of torture roulette, using "The Method" from *DWYW Issue 3*. Finally, you can avoid torture roulette by tricking your parents into thinking you are obeying their orders when you really aren't. You'll have achieved a small win and fooled them if they believe you're complying without double-checking. We'll talk about that tactic in the upcoming *DWYW Issue 10*.

Today's parents pretend that they are more "lenient" than yesterday's parents, and so they don't have strict rules. In reality, this just means that they hurt their kids without warning whenever they want, and this has given rise to torture roulette. By removing rules, they enforce their unpredictable tendencies to hurt their kids while removing the element that the kid can control. Even more importantly, removing written rules also means removing the easier-to-use tools for abused youth to take control of their situation. Without specific rules to focus on, abused and isolated youth find it harder to speak out about their parents' abuse. Punishments are evil, and rules that youth have to obey under threat of punishment are evil, but torture roulette is real torture and is far more despicable than rule-based parenting. Youth liberationists should watch out for these "lenient" parents and "lenient" stances towards parenting, which look like progress but in reality are psychological torture and are dozens of steps backward. This type of parenting is oppression in disguise. Youth liberationists should not aim for lighter punishments or "leniency," but for a world where parents have no authority over youth.

Changing the Type of Punishment

Changing the type of punishment is one way that today's parent-slavers are far more vicious than those of the past. Examples of different common punishment types include grounding imprisonment, beatings, forced labor, public shaming, destroying social networks, apologies, boarding school, framing (framing a kid for a crime and getting them sent to prison on false charges), physical torture, and the troubled teen industry (getting kidnapped and sent to a concentration camp). Switching between these punishments while keeping the kid in the dark will always

be terrifying. Such an evil method of treating one's kid is typical of modern parents and their sick obsession with enforcing obedience. Youth liberationists must understand that as time goes on, oppression evolves and becomes more targeted and effective. Parent-slavers have found that changing the kind of punishment for disobedience without giving kids any notice or explanation is a very powerful tool for forcing youth to obey.

The parent's refusal to tell the kid what is coming next or even explain why they are doing what they do is the lynchpin of this method. Kids don't know what's going to happen next and are kept in terror of what their parents will do; they know it's going to be terrible, but they don't have the knowledge to ease their fears.

Youth grow up with the messages, "You can trust me; I am here for you," "I will always love you," and "I would never do anything to hurt you," but they are also kept in the dark about everything and are therefore unable to predict the behavior of their parent-slavers, which is one of the reasons torture roulette works so well. Combined with torture roulette, this creates contradictory information where what the parent repeatedly tells them (I love you and would never do anything to hurt you, trust me) clashes with the parents' real behavior and creates an environment of fear without cause.

Changing the Frequency of Punishment

Parent-slavers sometimes decrease the frequency of punishment in order to trick their kids into obeying out of gratitude. Although this might appear to be a step forward, their relationship's legal framework remains the same. Regardless of what the parent may say, the kid is still considered a slave by law. Here, the kid is either encouraged to disobey more, which is a good thing, or he or she is suspicious of the parent's lack of discipline, which is also a good thing. By changing up the frequency of punishment, the parent tricks the kid into thinking that they are "lenient" instead of mostly cruel.

It is cruel for a parent to harm their kids for refusing to follow their orders like good little slaves. It isn't the moral duty of kids to obey their parents; in fact, every kid would be better off never ever obeying. If parents want their kids to do something, they should persuade them without using force or coercion. The slavery that kids suffer under is a perversion of the natural order of things. A parent who uses less "punishment" does not become any less cruel because, in reality, they are still abusing their kid by committing crimes against them on a regular basis to get what they want. Reducing the overall number of crimes they commit against their kid does not cause the remaining crimes to disappear or cease. Kids' human rights are violated by all "punishments," and kids should never have to obey their parents.

Kids have no moral duty to obey their parents; laws that mandate otherwise serve to enforce slavery.

Changing the Severity of Punishment

Changing the severity of punishment is another way in which parent-slavers force their kids to obey. The possibility of getting a broken leg instead of a slap for eating dinner early serves to reinforce the obedience training that parent-slavers are already forcing their kids to go through. Many kids are terrified enough of the prospect of an unpredictable and extremely severe punishment to obey without question.

It is common for parent-slavers today to pretend to “restrain their temper” (as if their monstrous and violent tendencies toward their kids are somehow their kid's fault) and give light “punishments” for repeated acts of disobedience before suddenly “snapping.” In these cases, parents can go from slapping a disobedient kid to breaking their leg in three places, permanently crippling them for life. In these cases, a kid can call a parent a bad word, and the parent will go from having never hit them before to brutally murdering them. In these cases, the parent-slaver actively seeks a cruel and inventive way to cause permanent physical damage to their kid as “retribution” for having “tested their patience for so long.”

Other code phrases that parent-slavers use that can indicate this sort of torture roulette include “being patient,” “taking a deep breath,” and “finding my inner peace. In general, youth should keep a lookout for any and all short phrases that imply that a parent-slaver is patient but full of frustration and trying not to take it out on their kid. Kids who hear these phrases from their parents (or relatives) might want to get out immediately and should know that their parents are not to be trusted.

It is not possible to guarantee safety in these houses because this specific type of torture roulette is so unpredictable. Young people who live in homes where parent-slavers randomly change the severity of punishment need to get out of there as soon as possible because these parents are dangerous and frequently cause crippling or life-changing injuries.

Changing the Time of Punishment

One very evil way that parent-slavers use torture roulette to force kids to obey is by changing the time of punishment without warning or explanation. In this case, the kid is always punished for disobedience, but they are never told when. This means that a kid could go unpunished for a year for a previous act of disobedience, only to find themselves with a beating on the first day of the second year, with no explanation or warning. This is terrifying, cruel, and inhumane, and yet this strategy is the most common of all the aspects of torture roulette listed.

Parents will stop at nothing in their cruel quest to subjugate their human property, and so this cruel aspect of torture roulette is at the forefront of today's parenting.

The Struggle of Rich Kids

One overlooked struggle is that of rich kids. It would be more accurate to rephrase the term "rich kids" as "kids born to rich parents." There are no rich kids because no rich parent-slaver would ever provide their kid with the financial means to challenge them. Kids born to wealthy parents are poorer and less financially stable than adults making the minimum wage; their parents only give them little financial favors like dog treats. In this section, when we say "rich kids" we really mean "kids born to rich parents."

One of the special challenges that rich kids face is that their parents use them as slave labor to further their own personal brands. Rich parent-slavers frequently make their kids perform "prestigious" tasks in order to enhance their own status. Rich kids are forced to do painting, music, chess, robotics, science, medicine, the piano, the violin, and so forth. The kid receives no immediate or long-term benefit from these activities, but the wealthy parent's reputation is greatly enhanced. Rich parent-slavers put their kids through an unending hell of orders where their sole purpose is to obey. Rich kids live lives that are entirely devoted to obedience, from dawn to dusk. Rich parent-slavers dictate to their kids what to wear, how to act, what their interests are, how to speak, who their friends are (if they're even allowed to have friends), and how to think. They abuse their unique access to money and free time to control their kids.

Because their entire lives have been built around the goal of appeasing their parent-slavers against their will, rich kids frequently view themselves as "failures." Rich kids are made to dance to a horrible tune like puppets on strings. By creating a fake standard of what makes for a good childhood, rich-parent slavers judge their kids to be smart or dumb, hardworking or lazy, kind or mean, and more. They invent a fake reality in which disobedience is viewed as wicked and obedience as virtue. Rich parent-slavers gain from this misleading metric as well, since it gives the impression to other parent-slavers that they are "giving their kid opportunities" or "setting them up for success," when in fact they are just controlling their unhappy slave.

Middle-class and relatively poorer parent-slavers typically only abuse their kids where no one can see, while rich parent-slavers have no such restrictions. Due to their money and power, rich parent-slavers are able to abuse their kids in the most heinous ways when witnesses are present without ever facing consequences. Rape, torture, beatings, slavery, and human trafficking can all be done to rich kids with many witnesses around, and as long as a parent-slaver is rich enough to pay, there

won't be charges or convictions. Would-be witnesses can be paid off or intimidated with lawsuits and threats of prosecution or financial pressure; witnesses lying about what happened can be paid for and summoned to exonerate the rich parent-slaver; judges can be bribed; clerks can "forget" to enter paperwork into the system; court proceedings can be stalled; court records can be lost; court officials can falsify statements; lawyers both defending and prosecuting can be bought; police can falsify police statements as they write them down; and much more. This is uniformly true even in court systems that are structured to reduce real corruption (both reported and unreported), because even in the best countries, court officials are not accountable to youth in any way. In this way, rich-parent slavers weaponize their power and wealth to hurt their kids.

Rich kids are often blamed for their parents' sins, but the crime of the father (or mother) is not the crime of the son (or daughter). Kids should never be punished for the crimes of their parents. Since the law explicitly states that kids cannot leave their parents and become freedpeople, kids who are ensnared in criminal activity by them should likewise not face punishment. For kids of rich parent-slavers, who frequently become witnesses to the crimes their parents commit, this is especially important.

Rich kids also face the evils of the troubled teen industry. Rich parents can literally pay for their kids to be kidnapped and dragged off to a concentration camp in the middle of nowhere. These concentration camps, which go by various names like "residential treatment centers," "therapeutic boarding schools," "juvenile boot camps," "behavior modification programs," and "wilderness programs," abuse and torture young people in the name of mental health therapy. Rich kids are brainwashed, forced to take drugs, raped, beaten, made to perform labor, and have all kinds of human rights violations done to them in these hellholes.

Most people never question whether a rich kid actually has any real money or income at all; they just notice how much the kid's jacket is worth. Rich kids spend 16-hour days completing unpaid tasks against their will, decided for them by their parent slavers, and that goes unnoticed by the public. The majority of people never think about how rich parents can oppress their own kids with all of their money and power. Rich kids are not rich; rather, they are impoverished and the victims of rich and powerful slavers. These slavers subjugate their kids without end, abusing their wealth and influence. Rich parent-slavers use their wealth and influence as weapons against their kids in an endless number of ways.

Like all other youth, rich kids deserve to be freedpeople (people who are not slaves). They have the human right to choose how they spend their time, the right to not be kidnapped and tortured, and the right to be free from their parents using their money and power to oppress them. All kids, regardless of privilege, ought to be born free.

Abolish the Voting Age All at Once

One of the ideas being floated around the youth liberationist movement right now is the idea of slowly lowering the voting age. First to sixteen, then to fourteen, then “maybe further.” What this really means is a bunch of oppressors putting an end to youth liberationist organizing by satisfying the anger of older youth liberationists and spitting on the efforts of younger ones. Slowly lowering the voting age divides the youth vote and creates artificial divisions and rivalries among youth, and by doing this, these malicious adults will change the definitions of adulthood and kill the youth liberationist movement in the cradle. For example, the voting age in the United States was previously 21 before it was lowered in 1971. The age of majority followed, and now American 18- to 21-year-olds consider themselves to be adults. Despite having spent the majority of their lives as youth and easily meeting the definition of youth, they now regard themselves as adults. Even though those over 18 are now freedpeople, those under 18 face much greater oppression than they did prior to 1971. In truth, slowly lowering the voting age changed the meanings of both youth and adulthood, leading to youth under the age of 18 facing far more oppression.

We are about to see another big wave of slowly lowering the voting age, maybe for military reasons or some other sinister political agenda disguised in the rhetoric of youth liberation. We cannot let this happen. The key to youth liberation and universal voting rights for young people is the complete abolition of the voting age. The ability to vote is also a human right. It is what we are owed, and it has been ours from the moment of our birth. We demand our birthright of voting rights, not because we are greedy but because it is ours. Slowly lowering the voting age is a ploy to deny youth their human right to vote. Even the term “slowly” doesn’t mean anything; it’s just a way to trick youth liberationists into standing still. The last time the voting age was lowered was in 1971, and it’s been over fifty years since then. The voting age has not been lowered again. Any delays in lowering the voting age are human rights violations; we want our vote, and we want it now.

“Slowly lowering the voting age” is code for oppression by eliminating political support for youth liberation. Such laws move an imaginary line to turn youth into adults and then say that the remaining youth deserve greater oppression. Indeed, this is what has happened. Compared to today's youth, those born before 1971 were far more free—though they were still slaves. Slowly lowering the voting age is nothing more than a tool that parent-slavers use to justify the new controls over youth that they have created over the last 50 years. If the voting age is lowered to 16, the next round of oppressive regulations will cause youth under 16 to cry themselves to sleep while daydreaming of the world before the lowering. Youth over 16 will be set free, while those under 16 will see a significant worsening of their enslavement. It can always get worse, and if this slow lowering of the voting age happens a second time, it will get worse. This time, it will get unimaginably worse.

As youth liberationists, we must fight off this co-option before we become complicit in our oppression. The oppression of people under 16 is the same as the oppression of people ages 16–18. Youth at birth deserve freedom just as much as youth at age four; youth at age four deserve freedom just as much as youth at age ten; and youth at age ten deserve freedom just as much as youth at age seventeen. Youth liberation will only happen through the complete emancipation of youth from slavery and the granting of the right to vote from birth.

The only way to win is together, so we must achieve the abolition of the voting age all at once. We must abolish the voting age all at once and grant every youth the right to vote from birth. No co-option, no oppression, no promises about the future. We are entitled to the right to vote from birth; we want it now, and we will not take no for an answer.